



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **NEBRASKA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Nebraska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$25,728 (128 percent of poverty, 41 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Nebraska had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2015.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2015, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,090 a year) receiving child care assistance in Nebraska paid \$63 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Nebraska's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community.<sup>3</sup>
  - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties<sup>4</sup> was \$730,<sup>5</sup> which was \$114 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in urban counties was \$844,<sup>6</sup> which was \$65 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Nebraska paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties at the highest quality tier was 27 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Nebraska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 months while searching for a job.<sup>7</sup>

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Building Blocks: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2015 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2015). These data reflect policies as of February 2015, unless otherwise indicated.



- 1 For families transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the income limit was \$36,612 in February 2015. As of July 2015, the income limit for families transitioning from TANF was increased to \$37,167 (185 percent of poverty), and the income limit for all other families was increased to \$26,112 (130 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2015 federal poverty level. Also note that as of July 2014, 10 percent of a family's income is disregarded at redetermination if the family has been continuously eligible for child care assistance for 12 months.
- 2 A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,135 a year) would be eligible if the family were transitioning from TANF. This family's copayment would have been \$190 per month in 2015.
- 3 The reimbursement rates shown here were the rates in effect as of February 2015. The state increased reimbursement rates (from the 60th percentile of 2013 market rates to the 60th percentile of 2015 market rates) as of July 2015.
- 4 The urban counties include Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.
- 5 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 7 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 consecutive calendar months following each instance of the loss of employment. Families with school-age children generally cannot receive child care assistance while a parent searches for a job.

